Namdharis

In Papers

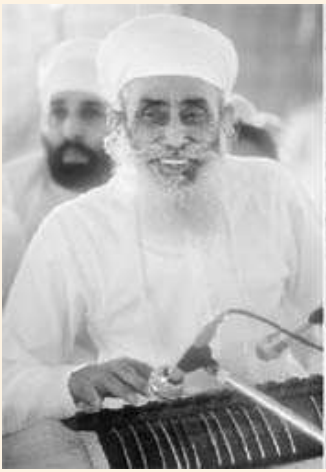
सतगुरु जगजीत सिंह संगीत सम्मेलन में कलाकारों ने बांधा समां

www.dainiksavera.com दैनिक सवेरा

Music is food for their soul

Tribune **Sunday, March 18, 2012** SD Sharma

AS a part of the ongoing commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the apex body of performing arts in India, has conferred the one-time honour of Akademi Rattan and Akademi Puruskar awards to maestros in the realms of art. The honour, to be presented by the President of India shortly, carries a purse of Rs 3 lakh and Rs 1 lakh, respectively, besides a citation, shawl and memento. The following awardees have got Akademi Rattan awards.



Satguru Jagjit Singh Bhaini Sahib

Professor Kartar Singh

Satguru Jagjit Singh Bhaini Sahib: Spiritual mentor and musicologist The spiritual head of the Namdhari Sikh sect, based at Bhaini Sahib in Punjab, the revered Satguru Jagjit Singh (93) has been credited with preservation and propagation of Indian classical musical arts, gurmat sangeet, sports, religion, philosophy and social awakening. He has also influenced the life of over two million followers the world over. Born to Sri Satguru Partap Singh and Mata Bhupinder Kaur, he received his education and learning of music initially from his father and guru at Bhaini Sahib, before mastering the nuances of Hindustani vocal, instrumental classical music and gurmat sangeet from ustaads like Harnam Singh, Udho Khan, Rahim Baksh, Bhai Taba and Bhai Nasir.

An accomplished and brilliant classical vocalist, the Satguru has an adroit mastery of rare compositions of the traditional Talwandi gharana, old gur rababi keertan, Gurbani dhuniyan, composed in quarter denomination of rhythmic patterns (khand matras), besides Dhrupad dhamar. His versatility encompasses playing all musical instruments with perfection, especially the Dilruba which he plays with his nails, indeed a rare accomplishment. With an ardent passion for music, he augmented the music training sessions under his care and introduced annual competitions to be held in Gurbani recitation, general

knowledge, kavi sammelans, dewans and practical training of shodh maryada, quiz contests, painting competitions and sports, all of which infused fresh blood in the campus activities. Gurmat and classical sangeet is very close to his heart. The Bhaini Sahib Music Akademi, established in 1928, has produced brilliant gems of classical music. The Satguru sponsored the training and tutelage of aspiring musicians with potential to be maestros. Trained under Pandit Krishan Maharaj, the tabla maestro Sukhwinder Singh Pinky shared the Grammy Award with Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt.

Namdhari touch to classical music

A summing-up of the six-day Sadguru Pratap Singh Smriti Sangeet Sammelan, sponsored by the Namdhari Sangat, a Delhi-based organization, at Aurangabad.

By MOHAN NADKARNI
The Illustrated Weekly of India, June 28, 1981

THE start of any sangeet sammelan season these days invariably raises the question whether the audience will show up. This is especially so in metropolitan cities like Bombay and Delhi, where music festivals, often stereotyped, badly organised, indifferently scheduled and exorbitantly priced, come and go in a row (at times clashing, too) ritualistically from October to May, year after year.

The six-day Sadguru Pratap Singh Smriti Sangeet Sammelan, sponsored by the Namdhari Sangat, a Delhi-based organisation, at Aurangabad sometime back unfolded a spectacle incredibly different from that of the run-of-the-mill metropolitan soirees.

Indeed, this marathon event revived nostalgic memories of the 'fifties, when sammelans, as a new vogue, symbolised all that was truly Satyam Shivam Sundaram in contemporary traditional music. This was most unmistakably reflected, among other things, in the tremendous audience participation that marked them then.

Fantastic then would be the word to describe the audience participation that witnessed the Aurangabad sammelan. And this, despite the cold winter winds blowing in the city.

The Turn Out

On the opening day, the turnout was estimated at 4,000, with the huge pandal which the sponsors had erected, with typical foresight, on the specious grounds of the Marathwada Samskriti Mandal. The crowd swelled to 8,000 on the final night, with the overflow spilling over on to a large part of the open space outside the pandal.

That the Aurangabadis are truly a tougher lot could also be seen from the way they put up with the obvious physical discomfort involved in baithak-style sitting in a jampacked pandal. And this they did night after night, sitting through the entire proceedings in pin-drop silence. What a contrast to the disconcertingly familiar sight at the Bombay sammelans, where chairs rattle and nylons rustle as the endless trickle of latecomers keeps moving across the auditorium right in the midst of a concert!

The involvement of the mixed audience was thus total and complete. Even to the sammelan sponsors, who have held six such sammelans in Delhi, Bombay and Lucknow since 1973, it came as a landmark in their own field. To the local population, it made history, in that the event made it possible for the ordinaryman and woman from the hinterland to have an opportunity to enjoy the performance of some of our best exponents of traditional music. To them, celebrities like Shivkumar Sharma, Hariprasad Chaurasia, Vilayat Khan and Amjad Ali must have so far been a legend, at best heart through the broadcasting and recorded media.

The sammelan served convincingly to explode the myth that classical music goes above the heads of the common people – that it is far removed from their taste. More importantly, the sammelan also showed that it possible to

provide a healthy counter-influence on the mass scale to the unabashedly unhealthy distractions that much of our film music purveys to the masses and corrupts and coarsens their aesthetic sensibilities.

The organizers received active guidance from several cultural institutions, besides the civic authorities. A measure of the impact of the sammelan was also seen in the reception accorded to the spiritual head of the 11-lakh Namdhari Sikhs, Sadguru Jagjit Singhji Maharaj, by the Aurangabad municipality during the intermission of the final session. To say the least, it signified a welcome break from the unenviable past when musicians and artistes were denied their due place of honour and usefulness in the social scheme.

Disciplined

The Namdhari Sikhs are a highly disciplined community and they seem to impart a sense of dedication and perfection to whatever they do. Their forefathers, several of whom suffered imprisonment and even martyrdom had challenged the imperial might of the British rulers and boycotted everything that was British till India became free in 1947. They now excel as much in farming and animal husbandry as in business and industry.

The same kind of discipline and dedication has characterized their involvement in traditional music which, to quote the Sadguru, “has been an integral part of the Sikh guru parampara and a way of life with the Namdharis.”

The 60-year-old Sadguru, himself a great scholar-musician and composer like his distinguished father and guru, Pratap Singhji Maharaj, is the guiding spirit behind these sammelans. He himself sat through the proceedings night after night and personally pushed through the performing schedules with amazing punctuality.

No wonder, then, that most of the 25 odd artistes billed for the festival were inspired to give of their best. Significantly, there were only three old veterans among them – the septuagenarian Mallikarjun Mansoor, the sitar maestro Vilayat Khan and the vichitra veena wizard, Gopal Krishan, both in their 50’s – while greater representation was approrpriately given to the younger executants in their prime like Hariprasad Chourasia (flute), Shivkumar Sharma (santoor), Amjad Ali (Sarod), Singh Bandhu and Mishra Bandhu (vocalists).

But it was the still younger element, all Namdharis, in their early 20’s, who, by their brilliant recitals, proved that there is enough talent in the young people to make such

sammelans a meeting ground not only of the past and the present but also of the past and the future. Among them were Harbhajan Singh (dhrupad-dhamar) and Baljit Singh (khayal and sarangi), Gurudev Singh (sarod), Kiranpal Singh (santoor) and Avatar Singh, Sukvinder Singh and Sukvinder Pinky (all percussionists).

Some of the youngsters have been groomed in the old traditions by the Sadguru himself and his younger brother, Bir Singhji Maharaj while others have been placed for training under established masters.

Besides the only dance concert by the Kathak maestro, Birju Maharaj, Nath Neralkar, a noted local vocalist, was featured in the festival. Incidentally, there were no women artistes. The parampara does not permit their participation.

Keeping the Tradition Alive

THE Namdharis' love of classical music is inspired by the first guru of the Sikhs, Nanak Dev. He was a full-fledged musician and the Holy Book, the Adi Granth (Granth Sahib) is possibly the only religious work where almost all the hymns are set to raga music.

At Guru Nanak's signal, Bhai Mardana, his life-long companion and rabab player, would strike the swaras of a chosen raga. The bani would then flow from the guru's

lips. There is a rare picture of the guru with Bhai Mardana sitting by his side, playing the rabab. These inspired hymns, known as Gurbani, are enshrined in the Holy Book.

The morning prayers in the numerous gurdwaras, scattered in far-flung hamlets and towns in Punjab and elsewhere, begin with the swaras of the raga Asa. The vesper-time kirtans ar set to ragas like Yaman.

In the post-Guru Nanak period, during the time of Guru Arjun Singh, the chief musicians of the Golden Temple of Amritsar became egoistic and lax. The Guru therefore ordered their dismissal and commanded every member of his congregation to learn traditional music. The Namdharis are the inheritors of this tradition.

Until 1947, the Golden Temple was the only sacred place where rabab-players gave recitals set to pure classical ragas. But now, the tradition is also found preserved and fostered in the Gurdwara of Bhaini Sahib, the spiritual centre of the Namdhari Sikhs in Ludhiana district, under the guidance and direction of Sadguru Jagjit Singhji Maharaj.

According to Sardar Harbinder Singh Hanspal, personal secretary to the present sadguru, Namdharis are the traditional Sikhs and strictly follow the preachings of living gurus. They are the true followers of the Gurbani with

implicit faith in the Sikh guru-parampara and the Holy Granth.

The Namdharis, who are vegetarians and teetotalers, believe that traditional music is a step forward to attain the goal of life. To them, traditional music is a “Ladder unto God.”

Pvt schools should open branches in villages: Gabria
Lays stone of school in Birmi village
Tribune News Service

Head of Namdhari Darbar Satguru Jagjit Singh inaugurates the building of a new branch of Guru Nanak Public School at Birmi village on Sunday. Minister of Jails and Tourism and Cultural Affairs Hira Singh Gabria is also seen in the picture.—Photo by Inderjeet Verma

Ludhiana, June 10,2007
Minister for Jails, Tourism and Cultural Affairs Hira Singh Gabria has stated that the government was committed to improving the quality of education in the state and asked private educational organisations to open branches in the rural areas so that students could also avail the facilities. He was addressing a function organised to lay a foundation stone of the new branch of Guru Nanak Public School at Birmi village, near here, today. Satguru Jagjit

Singh, head of Namdhari Darbar, laid the first brick of the building.

Gabria exhorted the managements of the private schools to induce the professional education so that the students could acquire the ability to compete for the jobs.
The minister said the schools should lay their main focus to adopt the latest education techniques for the all-round development of the students.

He said the government was going to set up new Adarsh Public Schools in each blocks with the latest facilities where free education would be provided to brilliant students belonging to the poor families of the area.
Highly appreciating the contribution of the private educational institutions, particularly in the rural areas, Gabria said for the government alone, it was not possible to cater to the need in this field. In the recent past, the private institutions had played a pivotal role in vocationalising the education in the state, he added.
He said only because of the good education facilities, students of the vocational institutions were earning a good name at the international levels. The family of the Late Baba Gurmukh Singh, who had launched many an educational institutions in Punjab, was following in his footsteps and making an excellent contribution in improving the standard of education. He advised that the

poor students should also be accommodated in the new schools at the concessional fee charges.

Others who addressed the function included Ranjodh Singh, president, Ramgarhia Education Society, H S Hanspal and Gurpargat Singh, president, Auto Parts Manufacturers Association.

Harjit Singh Grewal, a senior BJP leader, Surinder Singh Namdhari, Jasbir Singh Riyat, president, School Management, Surinder Singh Riyat, director, School Management, and Sohan Singh Goga were also present on this occasion.

Seminar on Namdhari Sikhs of 20th century
Tribune News Service

Amritsar, February 23, 2010

More than 120 scholars participated in the seminar on "Namdhari Sikh of 20th century" organised by Namdhari Guru Ram Singh Chair of Guru Nanak Dev University here on Monday.

Vice-Chancellor A.S. Brar presided over the seminar, while eminent scholar Dr Satinder Singh Noor delivered the inaugural address and Dr Sukhdev Singh from Punjabi University, Patiala, delivered the keynote address. Among others, H.S Hanspal, MP and President of Namdhari Darbar, Surinder Singh and Dr Harish Sharma were also present.

Brar stressed on the writing of history based on scientific facts.

Sukhdev Singh said the contribution of Kuka Andolan was commendable in the freedom struggle. He said this was the first public revolt from Punjab against the British empire.

He said contribution of the Namdhari movement for the rehabilitation of Namdhari Sikhs, social reforms, education, music and sports was unparalleled. He said that it was a

matter of concern that the youth in the contemporary society were indulging in drug addiction and social evils like female foeticide and dowry. He favoured adoption of the Namdhari ideals to get rid of these evils.

Satindar Singh Noor in his inaugural address said the Namdhari lehar was the real freedom movement and it should not be specified with a particular religion but a social movement which had its effect on Punjabis and Namdharis equally.

He claimed that in the writing of freedom struggle historians neglected Punjab, especially Sikhs and Namdharis. He said historians should approve sacrifies of the Namdharis in the freedom struggle against the British empire.

Earlier, Dr Joginder Singh, Head of the Namdhari Guru Ram Singh Chair, welcomed the chief guest and gave details about the seminar. Dr Sukhwant Singh, Head of the History Department, presented a vote of thanks.

Poets highlight female foeticide menace
Tribune News Service

Ludhiana, October 15,2003

To create awareness among the people on the menace of female foeticide, a seminar- cum - kavi darbar was organised by the Namdhari Darbar on the second day of the 99th annual Jap Tap Samelan at Bhaini Sahib today. Mr. H.S. Hanspal, President, PPCC, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Addressing the participants, Mr Hanspal said Satguru Ram Singh, had launched a crusade against those who killed their daughters at birth. Following his directions, the whole Namdhari Darbar, now under the spiritual guidance and direction of Satguru Jagjit Singh, was making efforts to create awareness among the people regarding the seriousness of this alarming situation.

He said though the government has enacted several legislations to give stringent punishments to the guilty, but this social evil was assuming alarming proportions and was causing an irreparable loss to society. In present times, skewed sex ratio would create a serious imbalance in society.

Mr Hanspal appealed to the people to be vigilant and report any such by couples to the authorities so that they can be punished suitably.

Sant Daleep Singh Namdhari apprised the people about the efforts of Satguru Jagjit Singh and Namdhari Darbar in persuading the people to refrain from the female foeticide as the girls are equally important for society. He said the darbar was also educating the public regarding the growing use of the drugs and other intoxicants among the youth, which could completely ruin our future generations.

Prominent speakers and poets who participated included Dr Gurcharan Kaur Kochhar, Mr Surjt Patar, President, Punjabi Sahitya Akademi, Mr Harbir Singh Bhanwar, Mr Inderjit Singh Hassanpuri, Dr Swaranjit Kaur Grewal, Dr Gurminder Sidhu, Dr Kamaljit Singh Kakkar, Dr Harjinder Singh Sandhu, Mr Ajit Singh Lehal, Dr Tarlochan Lochi, Mr Jatinder Pal Singh Jolly and Mr Kulwant Jagraon.

Seminar on Namdhari movement on May 8
Tribune News Service

Ludhiana, April 25

Sri Satguru Ram Singh Chair established at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, is holding the first-ever seminar on "Namdhari Movement-History, culture and contributions" at Sri Bhaini Sahib, on May 8 and 9.
The seminar will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, who will also preside over the function. Dr Harbhajan Singh Soch, Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, will also address the seminar wherein several delegates from within the country and abroad will participate.

In this connection a meeting was held here yesterday in which Mr Harvinder Singh Hanspal, president of Namdhari Darbar and former MP, Dr Satinder Singh, head of Satguru Ram Singh Chair, and Sant Surinder Singh Namdhari (trustee) were present.

Sangeet Natak Akademi

New Delhi: Noted vocalist Girija Devi, renowned classical dancer Nataraja Ramakrishna, dhrupad maestro Rahimuddin Dagar and mridangam exponent T.K. Murthy were honoured with the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi fellowships here Friday.

Besides this, 36 artists were presented Akademi Awards for 2010 by Vice President Hamid Ansari and Culture Minister Selja. The four Akademi fellows received a purse of Rs.300,000 each while the winners of the Sangeet Natak awards Rs.100,000.

Some of the recipients of the coveted awards include Chhanu Lal Mishra and Yashpaul for Hindustani vocal music, Budhaditya Mukherjee for sitar, Mysore Nagamani Srinath for Carnatic vocal, Malabika Mitra for Kathak dance, Kalamandalam Kombil Gopala Vasudevan Nair for Kathakali, Uttara Asha Coorlawala for creative and experimental dance, Swatilekha Sengupta for theatre, Harbhajan Singh Namdhari for Gurbani Kirtan of Punjab, Nazeer Ahmad Khan Warsi and Naseer Ahmad Khan Warsi for Qawwali and Dwijen Mukherjee for Rabindrasangeet.

Ashok D. Ranade was honoured with the award for

scholarship in music while Jaidev Taneja for his overall contribution to theatre.

Addressing the gathering, Selja said the Sangeet Natak Akademi has recently taken steps to set up the National Audio-Visual Archives in Delhi.

These archives will help to conserve an important part of India's intangible cultural heritage for posterity, she said.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi also runs a museum of musical instruments, Selja said.

"But I doubt that just one such museum would be sufficient. I understand that the working group of the ministry for the 12th Plan is working on setting such a museum in each zone of the country and I look forward to the establishment of such museums across the country," she said.

Selja said her "ministry has also received requests for the creation of an Artists Welfare Fund".

"The ministry has a scheme to provide financial assistance to artists in indigent circumstances, which has been recently modified to provide a higher level of assistance to

artists in dire financial straits. The proposal for establishing an Artist Welfare Fund is being worked upon and the ministry is holding stakeholder consultations. It will soon give a final shape to the proposal," she added.

IANS

Banned book in circulation
Tribune News Service

Amritsar, October 7

Even as the Jathedar of Akal Takht, Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti, has written to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee to ban 'Purkh Guru' authored by Mehar Singh and published by Namdhari Darbar, Bhaini Sahib (Ludhiana), the controversial book is still in circulation. However, the Namdhari sect has claimed that it has not published the new edition of the book.

Though the book of excommunicated Baba Piara Singh Bhaniara has been banned by the state government, but no such action has been initiated against the sale of 'Purkh Guru'.

Though Mr Surjit Singh Cheema, a former executive member of the SGPC and convener of the Khalsa Panth Tercentenary Sub-Committee (Jalandhar) has sent at least three letters to the SGPC and Akal Takht since 1999 yet no action has been taken in this regard.

Mr G.S. Lamba, a senior advocate and Sikh intellectual, said today it was a matter of shame that the controversial book has not been banned so far. He alleged that though the Namdharis did not consider Guru Granth Sahib as 'living guru', yet Prof Manjit Singh, Jathedar, Kesgarh Sahib, gave undue importance to the sect during the tercentenary celebrations.

Auditorium stone laid in memory of writers
Our Correspondent

Amritsar, October 7

Foundation stone of an auditorium in memory of noted Punjabi writers Gurbax Singh "Preetlari" and Nanak Singh "Navalkar" was laid at Preet Nagar by Thakur Uday Singh namdhari here today.

Mr Preetam Singh, president of the foundation formed in the memory of these writers, lamented that the government had done little to promote writers especially Punjabi writers. He pointed out that besides Tagore even noted writers, like Munshi Prem Chand had no memorials.

On the occasion, MLA of the area Mr Veer Singh Lopoke, announced Rs 50,000 for the auditorium Mr Narinderjit Singh Soch a noted writer said the government should encourage writers and the nation should know these writers.

Thakur Uday Singh in his address said that Gurbax Singh and Nanak Singh gave new direction to Punjabi writing. Development of the community depends on its language and religion and government of the day should realise this.

The 2000 square yard auditorium costing about Rs 50 lakh will have a library, meeting hall, theatre hall, green room and research centre for doctorate students. Various noted writers including Mr Gulzar Singh Sandhu, were also present on the occasion.

Namdhari sect members carry out cleanliness drive

Tribune Mar 17, 2019,

FacebookTwitterEmailPrint

Namdhari Sect members during a cleanliness drive in parts of Ludhiana on Saturday. Tribune Photo

Tribune News Service

ludhiana, march 16

The members of Namdhari Sect carried out cleanliness drives at various location in the city on Saturday. Namdhari Sect head Satguru Uday Singh participated in the

cleanliness campaign and appealed the residents to make city clean.

The drive began from the Book market and also carried out at Chaura Bazar and Lal market. The members armed with brooms, containers, JCB machines and tractor trollies collected the garbage from various points at these areas.

Satguru Uday Singh appealed to the public to segregate the garbage. He said wet and dry waste should be kept separately. For ensuring good health, there is a need to keep environment and surroundings clean, he said.

“It was a surgical strike against garbage thrown at various locations. We will keep participating in such drives to make city neat and clean,” said, one of the members.

Spokesperson of Namdhari Darbar, Lakhvir Singh said the namdharis had started the drive around 4 am in the morning. He said around 350 members participated in the drive. Earlier, the members had participated in the drive to remove silt and waste from Buddha Nullah.

Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi pays homage to the 66 Sikh Kuka Martyrs

5 Dariya News
Malerkotla , 17 Jan 2019

Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Minister, Government of Punjab, paid homage to the 66 Sikh Kuka martyrs on Namdhari Kuka Martyrdom Day. Led by Captain Amarinder Singh, Chief Minister of Punjab,

the martyrdom day was observed on January 17 at Namdhari Shaheedi Samarak, Malerkotla to remember the brave hearts who sacrificed their lives to British Cannon in 1872.Every year, the day is commemorated in the memory of the 66 Namdhari Sikhs who in protest of cow slaughter stood in front of a British cannon, raised the slogan of 'Sat Sri Akal', and were blown apart. Along with Rana Sodhi, the state level martyrdom function, Namdhari Kuka was attended by several other cabinet ministers, MPs, MLAs and other eminent personalities who also came forward to pay their respect to the martyrs. While talking about the sacrifice of the Kuka Sikh patriots, Rana Sodhi said, "The respect for Sikh community comes directly from my heart and it is not because I belong to this community but, because of the sacrifices they have made. We can never forget the heroic act of the Kuka's who happily sacrificed their lives for saving the pride of the nation and in India's freedom struggle. Their unparalleled sacrifices will always keep us motivated to serve our motherland and will continue to inculcate the spirit of patriotism amongst us.

Bhaini Sahib sports model to be replicated in Punjab: CM Channi

Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi with Namdhari sect chief Satguru Uday Singh at Sri Bhaini Sahib in Ludhiana. Tribune photo

Ludhiana, November 20

In order to promote sports in the state, especially in the rural parts, Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Saturday announced to construct sports grounds on Sri Bhaini Sahib sports model in block and district levels.

On his first visit to Sri Bhaini Sahib in the district today, Channi accompanied by Namdhari sect chief Satguru Uday Singh, former PPCC chief HS Hanspal, Samrala MLA Amrik Singh Dhillon, Sultanpur Lodhi MLA Navtej Singh Cheema, Gill MLA and Punjab State Warehouse Corporation

chairman Kuldeep Singh Vaid, inspected the AstroTurf at Sri Bhaini Sahib. Channi said the Punjab Government would replicate this cost-effective and feasible model of the AstroTurf and grounds in the entire state.

Reiterating his government's commitment to provide the state-of-the-art sports infrastructure to players, the Chief Minister said, "Such model sports grounds will enable players to further excel in world-class tournaments like Olympics."

He added that officials would soon chalk out a blueprint for developing such AstroTurfs and football grounds in consultation with the Sri Bhaini Sahib management. Channi also assured that there would be no dearth of funds for this purpose.

"The Punjab Government is working to promote sports amongst the Punjabi youth," said Channi. Meanwhile, Satguru Uday Singh, who is also head of the task force of Rs650-crore Buddha Nullah Rejuvenation Project, discussed the project with Channi.

Prominent among present on the occasion, include senior Congress leaders Satwinder Kaur Bitti, Vikram Singh Bajwa, Gurdeep Singh Sarpanch and Karanveer Singh Dhillon. — OC

Ludhiana: Classical music festival held

By[HT Correspondent](), Ludhiana **Nov 23, 2021**

The ninth annual Sangeet Sammelan, a classical music festival, was held in Ludhiana on Monday on the 101st birth anniversary of Satguru Jagjit Singh, the former head of Namdhari sect

Artistes performing during the ninth annual Sangeet Sammelan classical music festival in Ludhiana on Monday. (HT Photo)

The ninth annual Sangeet Sammelan was held at Gurdwara Shri Bhaini Sahib on Monday on the 101st birth anniversary of Satguru Jagjit Singh, the former head of Namdhari sect.

Satguru Uday Singh, head of the sect, inaugurated the Sangeet Sammelan by lighting the lamp followed by a presentation by Mansa Singh on tabla who was supported by Ganga Singh on dilruba.

Renowned Sarangi player Momin Khan Niazi mesmerised the audience with his performance. Amid hearty applause from the audience, famous classical vocalist Vidushi Kaushiki Charkarborty enthralled the audience with her beautiful voice. She was ably supported by pandit Ajay Joglekar on harmonium and pandit Ojas Adhiya on tabla. Ragi Balwant Singh and press secretary Lakhveer Singh Baddowal said that the music fest is held every year and thousands of music admirers attend and relish the performances of the artists spread over 2-3 days.

Will replicate Bhaini Sahib sports model across Punjab: CM Channi

With the Punjab assembly polls in the offing, CM Charanjit Singh Channi visited Bhaini Sahib, where the Namdhari sect hold considerable sway, in Ludhiana, where he reiterated his commitment to improve sports infrastructure across the state

Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi meeting Namdhari sect head Uday Singh at Bhaini Sahib. Reiterating his government's commitment to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure to sportspersons, the chief minister said he will replicate the cost-effective Bhaini Sahib model at block and district levels across the state. (HT Photo)

Published on Nov 20, 2021

By HT Correspondent, Bhaini Sahib:

With the Punjab assembly polls in the offing, chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi visited Bhaini Sahib, where the Namdhari sect hold considerable sway, in Ludhiana on Saturday.

Reiterating his government's commitment to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure to sportspersons, the Punjab chief minister said he will replicate the cost-effective Bhaini Sahib model at block and district levels across the state. "Such model sports grounds would allow players to excel in world-class tournaments such as the Olympics. Officials will soon chalk out a blueprint for developing such AstroTurfs and football grounds in consultation with the management of Bhaini Sahib so that the players can practice in a professional manner as per world standards. There will be no dearth of funds for this purpose."

"The day is not far when Punjab will send the highest number of players for prestigious world-level sports events," he said.

During his maiden visit, Channi met Namdhari sect head Uday Singh, former PPCC chief HS Hanspal and other prominent members of the Namdhari sect. The votes of the Namdhari sect will be crucial in the Sahnewal and Samrala assembly constituencies.

The CM was accompanied by Samrala MLA Amrik Singh Dhillon, Sultanpur Lodhi MLA Navtej Singh Cheema, MLA Gill and Punjab State Warehouse Corporation chief Kuldeep Singh Vaid.

Satguru Uday Singh, who is also head of the Task Force of the ₹650-crore Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project, discussed the project with Charanjit Singh Channi, who assured him of the state's support.

Among those present on the occasion were senior Congress leaders Satwinder Kaur Bitti, Vikram Singh Bajwa (both ticket aspirants from Sahnewal constituency), deputy commissioner Varinder Kumar Sharma, commissioner of police Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, additional principal secretary to the CM Jitendra Jorwal, and sub-divisional magistrate Vineet Kumar among others.

In November 2017, then chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh had also visited Bhaini Sahib.

Namdhari's to set up farming operations & production

facility in Telangana

Swati Rathor / TNN / Dec 22, 2021, 21:30 IST

HYDERABAD: Bangalore-based Namdhari's Group on Wednesday said that it will be setting up farming operations as well as a production facility in Hyderabad along with five experience stores at an investment of Rs 50 crore.

Commenting on the development, Gurmukh Roopra, CEO, Namdhari's Group, said, "We plan to expand our footprint in Hyderabad with an investment of around Rs 50 crore over the next 24 months. We will be setting up growing facilities in Hyderabad and are considering 'Simpli Food Stores'... We are also planning dairy subscriptions for direct supply of organic milk and dairy products."

Roopra pointed out that Namdhari's Group has been present in Telangana via its seeds division and is also one of the largest B2B suppliers for QSRs (Quick service restaurant) in Hyderabad.

Namdhari's started as a seed producer & distributor but gradually over the last three decades it has grown in areas such as sustainable farming, retail and food business.

Namdhari's to expand footprint in Hyderabad, invest Rs 50 crore

BYY V PHANI RAJ

PUBLISHED: 22ND DEC 2021

Hyderabad: Bengaluru-based Namdhari's Group, a sustainable farming, retail and food entity, is expanding its presence in Hyderabad with plans to invest Rs 50 crore over the next 24 months. The investment will go towards farming operations, growing production centres, experience stores, dairy products, standalone food outlets and warehousing.

Simpli Namdhari's is a vegetarian retailer with a seed-to-fork concept. The Quick Service Restaurants (QSR) in the stores offer Namdhari's seed-to-plate ideology, where delicacies are made with farm fresh produce and served.

Gurmukh Roopra, CEO, Namdhari's Group, told Telangana Today, "After Bengaluru, Hyderabad will be our second city to expand into retail. As we set up production facilities and expand the network of our growers and sellers, we will also be catering to the surrounding cities. Depending on the land and resources, we will come up with protected growing facilities in Hyderabad. We may also look at e-commerce options going forward."

"We are considering standalone food stores – Simpli Food Stores, which will serve healthy and tasty short eats and snacks. We are planning dairy subscriptions for direct supply of quality, single origin fresh A2 and organic milk and dairy products. We had a presence in Telangana in the form of our seeds division (Namdhari Seeds) and had been serving QSRs here," he added.

Having its own production facilities, the company has been able to achieve complete control on its value chain,

offering consumable products, groceries, fruits and vegetables, delicacies, and snacks, all under one roof.

Growth opportunities

"In future, we will leverage our strengths in our core verticals. We will continue to tap domestic and export opportunities. The group has been growing at a rate of 15 per cent every year. Our revenues stand at around Rs 800 crore and we aim to achieve Rs 1,000 crore revenues in the next 12-24 months. While the domestic market contributes 75 per cent of revenues, exports account for 25 per cent," he further added.

The company caters to export markets such as Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Turkey, Egypt, Mexico, Australia, and the Middle East region.

Namdhari's Group, which started as a seed producer and distributor business to offer quality and high-yield seeds has over the last three decades grown to become a sustainable farming, retail, and food business. It also works with millions of farmers including those in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Nagpur.

When asked about funding plans, Roopra said, “The immediate expansion will happen through internal funds. For further pan-India expansion, we are looking for external funding in the next 12-18 months horizon. We may go for $20-50 million (Rs 150-375 crore) funding, depending on the requirement.”